

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6 and 8-35 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 8 and 9 have been amended. Claim 7 has been cancelled.

The Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). The Examiner now objects to claims 7-9, which would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner has allowed claims 10-35.

The Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 7 according to the Examiner's proposal. Claim 7 has been cancelled. Accordingly, claim 1 as rewritten as well as claims 2-6 which dependent therefrom are now allowable. Claims 8 and 9 have been amended to reflect the change in dependency.

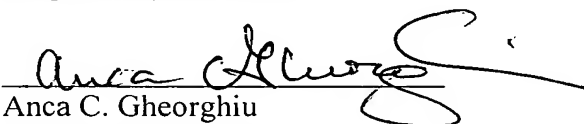
Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of records, applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Applicant believes that no extension of time is necessary to make this Reply timely. Should applicant be in error, applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Anca C. Gheorghiu at (607) 974-3322.

Respectfully submitted,

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